

## 10<sup>th</sup> Mtn. strikes during Mountain Resolve

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**NURISTAN PROVINCE**, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division lived up to their namesake, braving treacherous terrain and weather to accomplish their initial ground mission during the launch of the Coalition Joint Task Force 180's latest strike in the War on Terrorism, Operation Mountain Resolve.

Elements of 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division's Warrior Brigade, led by Company B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry, air assaulted into farm fields on the outskirts of Namgalam Village in the eastern Afghan province of Nuristan shortly after nightfall Nov. 6. Upon landing they immediately began their mountainous trek that would ultimately end six days and more than 20 kilometers later on a mountaintop after reaching their objective, a suspected Anti Coalition Militant (ACM) stronghold. During the first three nights the large 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division force traveled



*10th Mountain Division soldiers stand by as a CH-47 Chinook helicopter delivers supplies during Operation Mountain Resolve. The operation, which began on Nov. 7, is currently taking place in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar and Nuristan Provinces*

along the mountainsides of the Darrahe Waygal valley along the Fawerikwar River.

Coalition forces had received information about ACM activity all throughout the

valley, said Co. B Commander Capt. Toby Moore, and it was their job to disrupt any

————— See **STRIKE**, Page 4

## Polish Task Force celebrates Independence Day

Story and photo by Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan – Celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, the Polish Task Force held an open-house exhibition at the Polish Compound on Bagram Air Base Tuesday.

The hour-long exhibition gave coalition partners, who attended the event, a chance to get an in depth look at the weaponry and equipment the Polish Task Force uses in supporting operations in Afghanistan.

“[The exhibition] was an important event for us because it was a celebration of our Independence Day,” said Maj. Jerzy Kucharski, senior operations officer of the Polish Task Force, “but it also allowed our coalition partners to see the presence our task force

has in support of the war on terrorism.”

The exhibition began with Mass and was follow by a flag ceremony along with a demonstration of Sapper equipment and a simulated medical evacuation.

In the demonstration and evacuation, members of the Polish Task Force responded to a landmine mine accident, in which the medical team had to enter a minefield and evacuate and treat a casualty. The team wore specialized cushioned footgear to walk through the minefield to get the casualty. The gear is designed to lessen the impact of their weight on the ground when walking in a sensitive area.

“The demonstration was very important because we wanted to show the coalition that we have a capable medical staff and very good medical equipment to treat accidents that occur in the

————— See **CELEBRATE**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*People inspect damage to a warehouse in Baghdad on Thursday, following an overnight raid by U.S. forces.*

## Assaults in Baghdad continue

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** — In the second day of ground and air assaults Thursday around Baghdad, U.S. troops destroyed a former Republican Guard building used by insurgents, the U.S. military said.

Meanwhile, Pentagon officials said that over the past several days troops seized 125 mortar rounds, 130 rocket-propelled grenades and 85 grenade launchers in two raids in the northern city of Mosul and four in the Sunni triangle.

The triangle is considered a Baathist stronghold that includes Baghdad and runs north along the Tigris River to Saddam Hussein's hometown, Tikrit, and west along the Euphrates River in the dangerous cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Khadiyah.

Pentagon officials also said U.S. forces are holding as suspected enemy combatants about 20 people captured in raids around Mosul and Tal Afar over the past two days. Four are linked with the deaths of two U.S. soldiers who had been working with the mayor of Mosul.

In other action, troops apprehended five people suspected of a role in potential attacks against coalition forces, Pentagon officials said. Some 70 million dinars in cash — about \$28,000 — also was found.

In Baghdad, the 1st Armored Division continued Operation Iron Hammer, an offensive targeting Saddam loyalists and other insurgents.

The former Republican Guard building in the western part of the capital near Baghdad International Airport was destroyed by an AC-130 Spectre gunship using 105 mm cannons and 40 mm guns, a division statements aid. The build-

ing had been used recently to conduct attacks on U.S. troops, it said.

U.S. forces also fired artillery rounds at two suspected mortar and rocket launch sites, one in western Baghdad and one in eastern Baghdad, the division said.

The operation began Wednesday, just hours after guerrillas attacked the Italian military police headquarters in Nasiriya, killing 18 Italians and at least eight Iraqis.



*Laci Peterson*

## Detective: Scott Peterson visited marina three times

**MODESTO, Calif.** — Scott Peterson drove three times to the Berkeley Marina, near where the body of his wife and her unborn son would be found, and simply stared out at the water, a Modesto police detective testified Thursday.

Under cross-examination, defense attorney Mark Geragos established that Peterson drove to the marina on the days that the Modesto Bee reported that divers would search the bay for Laci Peterson's body.

Testifying in Stanislaus County Superior Court, detective Al Brocchini said police followed Peterson 80 miles from his house to the marina last January 5, 6 and 9.

Police had searched Berkeley Marina on January 4 with dogs trained to find cadavers but turned up no additional clues. Peterson had told police he last saw his wife on Christmas Eve morning, when he left the house to go on a solo fishing trip to the San Francisco Bay area.

The first two times, Peterson got out of his car and stared at the water for about two minutes, then got back into his car and drove off, Brocchini said. During Peterson's second trip to the marina, he apparently realized he was being observed and took evasive driving action to shake the follower, Brocchini said.

On January 9, police put Peterson under round-the-clock surveillance, Brocchini said.

On that day, Peterson drove to the marina a third time but used a rented truck. He circled the parking lot and then drove to Bakersfield, Calif., more than 200 miles away, where he checked into a motel, the detective said.

But defense attorney Geragos countered that Peterson drove in rented vehicles because his own pickup truck was still being held by police. In an apparent attempt to establish that the evidence may have been mishandled, Geragos then got into a heated exchange with Brocchini about the hair contained in an evidence envelope.

The description of Peterson's activities was raised in the ongoing preliminary hearing for the accused husband, who is charged with murder in the two deaths. If convicted, Peterson could be subject to the death penalty.

## Nearly 1 million lose power as windstorms rush across U.S.

**(AP)** — Deadly windstorms gusting to more than 70 mph swept across the Midwest and the East, knocking out power to nearly a million customers and bringing flooding that flushed out buildings "like a toilet."

A motorist who drove past a roadblock was swept away by a creek in West Virginia, and in New York a tree fell onto a car, killing the driver. A Virginia teenager was seriously injured when a tree fell on her as she waited for a school bus.

In Los Angeles, hail up to six inches deep remained on the ground Thursday in the Watts, South Gate and Compton neighborhoods, a day after a freak storm. The storm dropped 5 inches of rain and hail in under two hours, leaving thousands without power.

More than 980,000 customers lost power around the Midwest and East, including more than 330,000 in Michigan, where gusts up to 74 mph knocked down trees and power lines Wednesday. Scores of school districts canceled classes, and a live power line fell across Interstate 94 near the Detroit airport, creating a monster traffic jam.

Waves of up to 16 feet were recorded on Lakes Erie and Ontario.

New York-area airports had flight delays of up to three hours.



## Special Operations: Force multiplier in anti-terror war

Story by Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – Multitalented special operations troops provide senior U.S. military commanders with an array of options in addressing the multifaceted challenges presented by the war on global terrorism, said DoD's top special operations official.

Army, Air Force and Navy special operators have proved their worth in places like Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, noted Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for special operations/low intensity conflict.

These troops, O'Connell pointed out, are conducting combat missions, strategic reconnaissance, psychological, civil affairs, counternarcotics, and training operations worldwide in support of the global war on terrorism.

"There's no doubt," O'Connell maintained, that American special operations forces "have done a magnificent job and have made a dent in the terrorist infrastructures" and networks.

"They've been extremely successful," he continued, noting that not all special operations' triumphs are publicized, due to security considerations.

For example, O'Connell noted, American intelligence gathering might be compromised if the enemy knew right away that special operations had captured a key operative.

An SOF member, O'Connell continued, is "an extremely well-trained, highly motivated, mature individual who is willing to endure incredible hardship and make very significant sacrifices for the welfare of his country."

Special operators, he pointed out, provide myriad options for combatant commanders, whether it's a Navy SEAL "takedown of a ship at sea," an Army Ranger airfield seizure, or an Air Force special operations combat control mission.

"These are extraordinarily dangerous missions," O'Connell emphasized. He said special operations troops "go and train repeatedly to an extremely high standard, so that when the call comes, they're able to execute those very difficult missions."

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

### "Windtalkers"

1530Z at the MWR Building:

Two U.S. Marines in WWII are assigned to protect Navajo Marines who use their native language as an unbreakable radio cypher.

Tomorrow's movie: "We Were Soldiers"



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 61F L: 43F	Thunderstorms H: 57F L: 41F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 73F L: 45F	Rain H: 59F L: 45F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Thunderstorms H: 63F L: 43F	Thunderstorms H: 57F L: 39F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Rain H: 72F L: 41F	Rain H: 47F L: 32F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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## **STRIKE**, from Page 1

ACM operations and deny them sanctuary in a province that coalition forces hadn't been in since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom.

As they moved through the valley, the foot soldiers were protected from the sky by AH-64 Apache helicopters and A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft providing 24-hour close air support.

For 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, this was one of the largest operations in terms of military assets available since arriving in Afghanistan in early August, according to Moore.

Along with the close air support, the Warrior Brigade infantry units were augmented with assets from numerous job specialties, including Field Artillery, Civil Affairs, Military Police, Psychological Opera-

tions, Combat Camera and a Forward Treatment Team, to name a few.

"Normally when we deploy we have very limited attachments, but this time what we had was pretty impressive," said Co. B 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Carl Ashmead.

With all of the attachments able to help out on the mission, the infantry units were more able to save infantrymen for the fight, according to Ashmead.

During the first days of the mission, soldiers from Co. A, 2-22<sup>nd</sup> Inf. Bn. found and destroyed weapons, ammunition and explosives they found while searching through Namgalam village.

By the fourth day, the Warrior Brigade soldiers had traveled more than 20 kilometers over rocky mountainsides and even moved through a river at one point. Although during the trek they didn't come

into contact with ACM forces, they had finally come within view of the mountain where the objective was located.

According to Moore, although the soldiers didn't come into contact with ACM forces during their movement, the soldiers deserve more credit for the arduous trek than just moving 20 kilometers lends credit to.

"We traveled straight-line distance of 20 kilometers, but we ended up walking probably close to 52 kilometers total," Moore said, adding, "This was very successful for us. This terrain is very rigorous and unforgiving ... these (soldiers) were tired, it was cold and raining and they marched over 50 kilometers and didn't complain ... We're showing the ACMs that there is no place that they can hide because we'll find them."

## **CELEBRATE**, from Page 1

minefields in this area," said 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Tomasz Kvziara, Polish Task Force medical doctor.

Kvziara noted that the task force's medavac team is responsible for providing the initial aid for coalition troops and local citizens injured by landmines in the Bagram area.

He said the Polish medavac team is different than other medavac units due to the fact that the Polish team consists of a doctor and two medics as opposed to other units with medics only.

"The first medical treatment a person gets in a situation such as a minefield accident is very important," said Kvziara. "We have doctors in our medavac (unit) because time is valuable when determining if a person lives, dies or loses a body part."

The Polish Task Force's primary mission in Afghanistan is to conduct mining clearing operations and help construct facilities for Bagram and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. The task force has been a part of the coalition operation in Afghanistan since the spring of 2002 and is in its fifth rotation. The task force currently has nearly 100 troops based at Bagram.

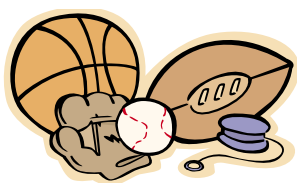
The Independence Day celebration was symbolic for the Polish force that understands the joy of freedom and is adamant in its attempts to help Afghanistan ascertain its own. Poland, declared its independence on Nov. 11, 1918 after World War I, and was divided in three partitions between Russia, Prussia and Austria before its liberation.

The task force recognizes the plight of Afghanistan to rebuild its nation and has vowed to help the country experience that same joy.

"We've had wars in our country, so we understand what Afghanistan is trying to accomplish," said Kucharski. "We have finally evolved as a country and we want to do our part in helping Afghanistan do the same."



*A Polish Task Force soldier sets up a piece of equipment that the task force had on display at its Independence Day celebration*



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *SI.com*)

## Gagne voted best in Cy Young race



*Eric Gagne is the first reliever since Mark Davis in 1989 to win the Cy Young.*

Diego's Mark Davis in 1989.

"We haven't seen a lot of relievers win that award, so I was a little worried," Gagne said during a telephone conference call.

San Francisco's Jason Schmidt was second with two first-place votes and 73 points. Chicago's Mark Prior got the other first-place votes and was third with 60 points.

Gagne, a 27-year-old right-hander, was 2-3 with a 1.20 ERA and had 137 strikeouts and 20 walks in 82 1-3 innings. He was converted from a starter to a reliever after the 2001 season and had 52 saves in 2002.

"I knew I had the mental attitude to be a closer, it was just a matter of doing it in the major leagues," Gagne said. "As a starter, you have to be more relaxed, you have to control your emotions more."

He is the only pitcher to reach 50 saves in more than one season and has converted 62 consecutive save chances since failing to hold a lead against Arizona on Aug. 26, 2002, a major league record.

**NEW YORK** — Eric Gagne was almost as perfect in NL Cy Young Award voting as he was on the mound.

The relief pitcher who converted all 55 of his save chances this year received 28 of 32 first-place votes and 146 points to win the honor Thursday from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

It was just the ninth time a reliever won a Cy Young, the first in the NL since San

"I don't really care about the streak," said Gagne, the first reliever to win a Cy Young since Oakland's Dennis Eckersley won the AL award in 1992.

## Bryant does not enter plea in court

**EAGLE, Colo.** — With his accuser's family looking on, Kobe Bryant made his first appearance before the judge who will preside over his sexual assault trial Thursday and put off a formal plea.

The parents of the 19-year-old woman were in the courtroom, along with two brothers and a cousin, prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said.

It is the first time the family members have attended a court hearing in the case — and the first time they have seen the NBA star in person, she said.

The family, which has declined comment, left the courthouse without speaking with reporters. Flannigan said they told her they were glad they came.

District Judge Terry Ruckriegle had been expected to advise the 25-year-old Bryant of his rights, the charge against him and the penalty he faces if convicted — four years to life in prison and 20 years to life on probation. But the defense waived those rights.

"We have decided to follow the court's usual procedure and not enter a plea as of today," defense attorney Pamela Mackey said. "I fully advised my client of the charge against him and the possible penalty."

Bryant's \$25,000 bail was left unchanged. The Los Angeles Lakers guard, who arrived in Colorado after playing a home game on Wednesday night, sat quietly throughout the 12-minute hearing as Mackey answered routine questions from the judge about scheduling.

Attorneys on both sides told the judge they would need two to three weeks for a trial. The judge said his staff would begin looking at potential dates.

Ruckriegle set a pretrial hearing for Dec. 19 and another for Jan. 23 to settle various motions, including whether records from an Eagle-area rape crisis center should be given to the defense.

Bryant is accused of attacking the woman June 30 at a mountain resort near Edwards where she worked and he was a guest. Bryant says the two had consensual sex.



*Kobe Bryant enters court with his attorney at the Justice Center in Eagle, Colo.*

## Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

### Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ PGA Tour: WGC World Cup (live) 2000Z, 0030L
- ❖ NBA Pregame: Shootaround (live) 0030Z, 0500L
- ❖ NBA: Spurs vs 76ers (live) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖ NBA: Magic vs Nuggets (live) 0330Z, 0800L
- ❖ COLL BB: Coaches vs Cancer Classic (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖ COLL BB: Gonzaga vs St. Joseph's (taped) 1000Z, 1430L
- ❖ Tennis Masters Cup Houston (taped) 1300Z, 1730L
- ❖ COLL FB: Texas A&M vs Missouri (live) 1730Z, 2200L

### Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ COLL FB: Auburn @ Georgia (live) 2030Z, 0100L
- ❖ Big XII: Texas Tech @ Texas (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖ Tennis Masters Cup - Semifinal #1 (taped) 0300Z, 0730L
- ❖ Tennis Masters Cup - Semifinal #2 (live) 0500Z, 0930L
- ❖ NBA FastBreak (live) 0600Z, 1030L
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: Ford 300 (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖ WGC World Cup: Third Round (taped) 1230Z, 1700L
- ❖ NASCAR Winston Cup Series Ford 400 (live) 1800Z, 2230L



# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## President warns of anniversary attacks

**KABUL**, Afghanistan – Afghan President Hamid Karzai said yesterday he expected guerrillas to step up attacks on the eve of the second anniversary of the collapse of Taliban rule.

A spokesman for the hard-line Islamic militia said it had carried out an attack on a Romanian patrol Tuesday that killed at least one soldier and wounded another.

Two years ago tomorrow, the Taliban fled Kabul under cover of darkness after weeks of aerial bombardment by U.S. forces.

## Blast near U.S. troops kills four Afghans

**ASADABAD**, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – At least four Afghans were killed and three hurt when their car was blown up by a remote-controlled bomb apparently intended for a U.S. vehicle close to a U.S. military base, witnesses said on Thursday.

Wednesday's attack in the northeastern province of Kunar came on the eve of the second anniversary of the fall of the hard-line Taliban regime and appeared to be the work of hard-line Islamists or their allies, residents said.

They said the intended target in the incident in Manogi district of Kunar was probably a vehicle from U.S.-led forces driving just in front of the car that was destroyed.

"The only things you can see of the car are small burned pieces," one witness told *Reuters*. "In total, four have been killed and three others wounded."

The blast was just two kilometers (one mile) from a base used by U.S.-led military forces and not far from the border with Pakistan.

U.S. forces in Kunar come under regular, but mostly ineffective, attack by Islamic militants.

The militants are either remnants of the ousted Taliban, their al Qaeda allies or supporters of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a renegade warlord, who like the other groups, has called a jihad, or holy war against foreign forces in Afghanistan.

U.S.-led forces overthrew the Taliban militia two years ago to the day for sheltering Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda network, wanted for masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

Afghan and U.S. forces are scouring mountains and villages in Kunar and the neighboring Nuristan province as part of a new operation against militants called "Mountain Resolve," villagers reported.

The operation started last Friday and some villagers said Mawlawi Faqirullah, a top Hekmatyar commander in Nuristan, had been killed along with eight companions.

Eight members of an Afghan family were killed two weeks

ago by air attacks on a village in Nuristan.

The U.S. military has not admitted responsibility for the accident, but villagers say U.S.-led forces may have suspected that Faqirullah was hiding in the area.

## Afghanistan expansion met with threats

(*Google*) – Germany's UN Ambassador said that "major challenges" lie ahead for Afghanistan as a renegade warlord threatened German soldiers beginning peacekeeping duties in Kunduz.

The German Bundeswehr soldiers arriving in the northeastern city of Kunduz these past few weeks have gotten a rude greeting from the warlord experts say works most to undermine the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said Germany is making a "bad mistake" expanding its troop presence from Kabul into northern Afghanistan. The 450 German soldiers are the first expansion of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

"We don't know what the EU wants to gain by taking the side of the U.S. aggression in Afghanistan," Hekmatyar said in a statement quoted by the Afghanistan press agency.

## Pvt. Murphy



pvtmurphy.com

By Mark Baker

## Laugh Support

# Slippery crossword

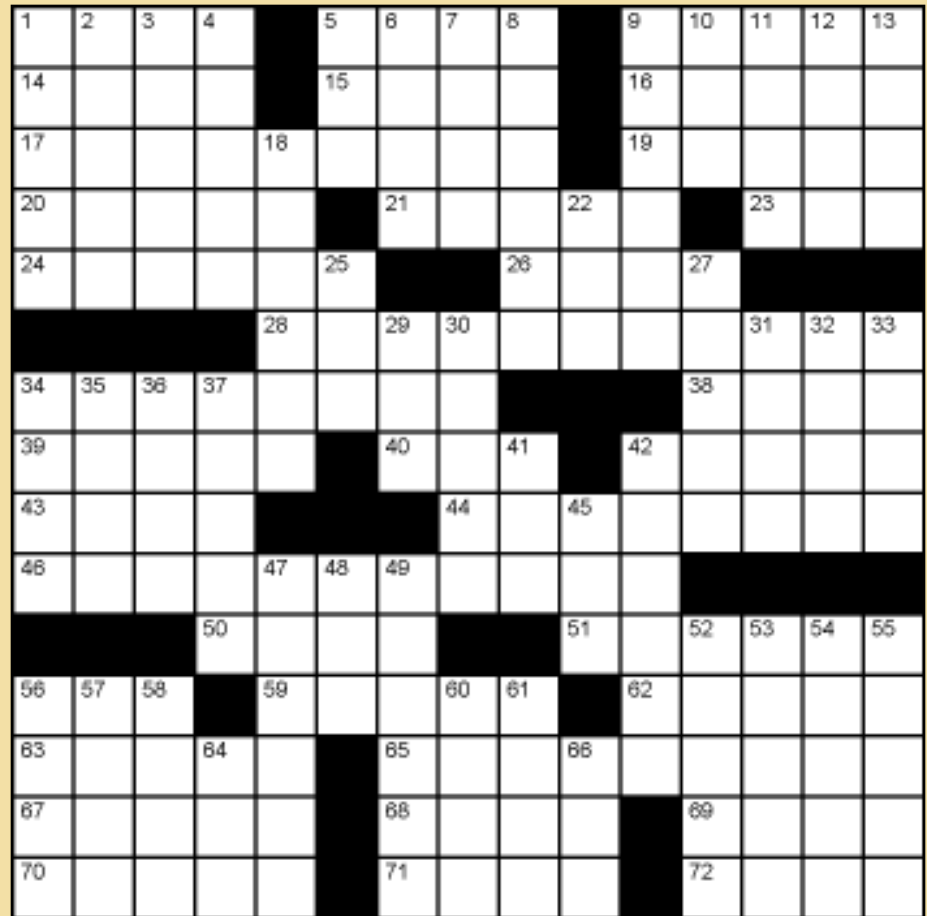
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## ACROSS

- 1 Mrs. Truman
- 5 Take a break
- 9 Dearth of "Star Wars"
- 14 Zillions
- 15 Emollient-yielding plant
- 16 Slip away from
- 17 In quick succession
- 19 Like the Battle of Midway
- 20 Catchall column
- 21 Broke a Commandment
- 23 Type widths
- 24 Loch sighting, in tabloids
- 26 Doctors sometimes split them
- 28 VCR button
- 34 Item on Maine's flag
- 38 "\_\_\_ Ben Adhem"
- 39 Prepares for publication
- 40 "What happened next?"
- 42 Prima donna's repertoire
- 43 \_\_\_ IRA
- 44 Bacitracin, for one
- 46 British press, figuratively
- 50 Big wheel's wheels
- 51 Becomes narrower
- 56 Parts of psyches
- 59 Perm features
- 62 Diamond unit
- 63 Hand-dyed fabric
- 65 Calcium oxide
- 67 Being employed
- 68 Bring to naught
- 69 Mac picture
- 70 Title for Wences
- 71 Scene of a temptation
- 72 GOP elephant creator

## DOWN

- 1 Von Richthofen's title



- 2 Put on cloud nine
- 3 Tenth-graders
- 4 Messy places
- 5 Luftwaffe battlers: Abbr.
- 6 New Haven collegians
- 7 Put in groups
- 8 Start a hole
- 9 Thin layer
- 10 Actress Gardner
- 11 Winfield in Cooperstown
- 12 Cheese in balls
- 13 Fam. tree members
- 18 Blizzard pileups
- 22 Writer Rosten
- 25 Something to lend or bend
- 27 Travel like locusts
- 29 Coral or Aral
- 30 Caruso was one
- 31 Irish Rose's beau
- 32 Horse coloring
- 33 Check for fingerprints
- 34 Broadway showing: Abbr.
- 35 Revered object
- 36 Evening, in ads
- 37 Merman or Mertz
- 41 Yahtzee cube
- 42 Tear into
- 45 After-tax take
- 47 Heart, slangily
- 48 Dallas sch.
- 49 It's measured in foot-pounds
- 52 Michael of "Monty Python"
- 53 Author Jong
- 54 \_\_\_ gin fizz
- 55 Surgeon's blockage reliever
- 56 Hieroglyphics bird
- 57 Hamlet, for one
- 58 Phaser setting
- 60 John of "High Society"
- 61 French fries or cole slaw
- 64 Prefix with bar or tonic
- 66 One in the clink

*Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch*